

Preliminary Amendment
Under 37 CFR 1.173(b)

Patent No. 6,367,613

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April 8, 2004

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

It is requested that Claims 1 and 14 be entered as specified in the Certificate of Correction issued on August 13, 2002 for the original patent grant.

1. An endless conveyor for transporting items, said conveyor comprising:

at least two rotatably mounted sprockets having respective axes of rotation parallel to one another and arranged in spaced relation along a path oriented perpendicularly to said axes;

an endless belt carried by said sprockets, said endless belt having an outwardly facing surface for supporting said items and an inwardly facing surface opposite said outwardly facing surface and engaging said sprockets, at least one of said sprockets comprising:

an elongated body having an outer surface facing said inwardly facing surface of said belt;

a fluid conduit extending lengthwise within said body from one end thereof;

a pair of supports for rotatably mounting said body;

a fluid inlet passage communicating with said fluid conduit; and

a plurality of outlet passages extending from said fluid conduit, said outlet passages terminating in apertures in said outer surface, said inlet passage supplying fluid under pressure to said fluid conduit and outwardly through said outlet passages and said apertures onto said inwardly facing surface of said endless belt.

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14. A sprocket adapted to spray a fluid for cleaning an endless conveyor, said sprocket comprising:

an elongated body having an outer surface facing an inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor;

a pair of supports for rotatably mounting said body, said outer surface following a cylindrical path upon rotation of said elongated body relative to said supports;

a fluid conduit extending lengthwise within said body from one end thereof;

fluid inlet passage communicating with said fluid conduit; and

a plurality of outlet passages extending from said fluid conduit, said passages terminating in apertures in said outer surface, said inlet passage supplying fluid under pressure to said fluid conduit and outwardly through said outlet passages and said apertures onto said inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor.

It is requested that the following new claims be added after Claim 24 (column 8, last line).

25. A sprocket adapted to spray a fluid for cleaning an endless conveyor, said sprocket comprising:

an elongated body having an outer surface positionable facing an inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor;

a fluid conduit extending lengthwise within said body from one end thereof;

a fluid inlet passage in fluid communication with said fluid conduit; and

a plurality of outlet passages extending from said fluid conduit, said passages terminating in apertures in said outer surface, said inlet passage supplying fluid under pressure to said fluid conduit and outwardly through said

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outlet passages and said apertures toward said inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor.

26. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein said fluid conduit extends substantially from said one end to the other end of said body.

27. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein said outlet passages and said apertures are positioned in spaced relation lengthwise along said body.

28. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein said outlet passages are oriented substantially radially with respect to the long axis of said body.

29. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein the length of said body is substantially equal to the width of said conveyor.

30. A sprocket according to Claim 25, further comprising a plurality of teeth spaced circumferentially around said body and projecting radially outwardly therefrom, said teeth engaging mating teeth arranged on said inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor allowing said sprocket to turn without slipping relatively to said conveyor.

31. A sprocket according to Claim 30, wherein said teeth extend substantially continuously along the length of said body.

32. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein said apertures are arranged in a row extending in a helix lengthwise along and around said body.

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33. A sprocket according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of said apertures is positioned between two of said teeth.

34. A sprocket according to Claim 25, further comprising at least one nozzle fitted within one of said apertures, said nozzle controlling the spray of said fluid through said aperture.

35. A sprocket adapted to spray a fluid for cleaning an endless conveyor, said sprocket comprising:
an elongated body having an outer surface
positionable facing an inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor;
said elongated body including a fluid conduit
extending from one end thereof;
a fluid inlet passage in fluid communication with
said fluid conduit; and
a plurality of outlet passages in fluid
communication with said fluid conduit, said outlet passages
being directed outwardly toward said inwardly facing surface
of said endless conveyor.

36. A sprocket according to Claim 35, wherein said outlet passages are positioned in spaced relation lengthwise along said body.

37. A sprocket according to Claim 35, wherein said outlet passages are oriented substantially radially with respect to the long axis of said body.

38. A sprocket according to Claim 35, further comprising a plurality of teeth spaced circumferentially around said body and projecting radially outwardly therefrom, said teeth being engageable with mating teeth arranged on said inwardly facing

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surface of said endless conveyor allowing said sprocket to turn without slipping relatively to said conveyor.

39. A sprocket according to Claim 35, further comprising at least one nozzle fitted within one of said outlet passages.

40. A sprocket adapted to spray a fluid for cleaning an endless conveyor, said sprocket comprising:

an elongated body having an outer surface positionable facing an inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor;

said elongated body including a fluid conduit extending from one end thereof;

a fluid inlet passage in fluid communication with said fluid conduit; and

a plurality of outlet means for directing fluid from said fluid conduit outwardly toward said inwardly facing surface of said endless conveyor.

41. An endless conveyor for transporting items, said conveyor comprising:

at least two rotatably mounted sprockets arranged in spaced relation;

an endless belt carried by said sprockets, said endless belt having an outwardly facing surface for supporting said items and an inwardly facing surface opposite said outwardly facing surface, at least one of said sprockets comprising:

an elongated body having at least one outer surface facing said inwardly facing surface of said belt;

a fluid conduit extending lengthwise from one end of said body;

at least one support for rotatably mounting said body; and

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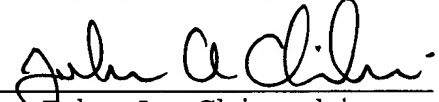
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a plurality of outlet passages in fluid
communication with said fluid conduit and being directed
outwardly toward said inwardly facing surface of said endless
belt.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re\ Application of: Preston D. Montgomery

Appln. No.: 09/645,041 Examiner: K. Tran
Filed: August 24, 2000 Group Art Unit: 3651

Now U.S. Patent No. 6,367,613
Issued April 9, 2002

For: BELT CLEANING SPROCKET

(Atty. Docket No. 23814-A USA)

**SEPARATE PAPER SETTING FORTH THE STATUS OF
ALL CLAIMS AND PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION OF
THE SUPPORT IN THE DISCLOSURE FOR THE CHANGES
MADE TO THE CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.173(c)**

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Reissue
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1-41 are pending in this reissue application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended so as to reflect the changes made by the Certificate of Correction for U.S. Patent No. 6,367,613 and issued August 13, 2002. Amendments are made without underlining or bracketing since these are part of the original patent and were made before the reissue was filed and should show up in the printed reissue document not in italics or bracketed. A copy of the Certificate of Correction is enclosed.

Status of All Claims
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(c)

Patent No. 6,367,613

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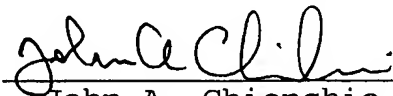
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Claims 25-41 are new claims. The chart provided below indicates where, in the disclosure, support for the added claims may be found. No new matter has been added.

Claim	Column(s)	Line(s)	Figure(s)
25	3,4	53-67, 1-43	1-3
26	4	44-48	3
27	4	49-50	2,3
28	5	20-23	4-7
29	4	44-48	1,2
30	4	6-23	1
31			2
32	4	49-53	2,3
33	5	24-26	4
34	5	34-42	5
35	3,4	53-67, 1-43	1-3
36	4	49-50	2,3
37	5	20-23	4-7
38	4	6-23	1
39	5	34-42	5
40	3,4	53-67, 1-43	1-3
41	3,4	53-67, 1-43	1-3

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Enclosure

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